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Poetry of the Charles

The Poetry of the Charles

And its Poets

Illustrated by Louis K. Harlow

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(1893)

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A bridge
Newton Lower Falls.

. . . A dreamy haze
Hangs over the Brighton meadows like a fate,
And on their margins with sea-tides elate,
The flooded Charles, as in the happier days,
Writes the last letter of his name, and stays
His restless steps, as if compelled to wait."

Henry W. Longfellow.

Longfellow House, Cambridge

"Somewhat back from the village street
Stands the old-fashioned country-seat"

Cambridge on the Charles.

J. R. Lowell

. . . The sliding Charles,
Blue towards the west, and bluer and more blue,
Living and lustrous as a woman's eyes,
Look once, and look no more, with southward curve
Ran crinkling sunniness, like Helen's hair,
Glimpsed in Elysium, insubstantial gold.

Lowell House, Cambridge

"The love that wanders not beyond his earliest nest
But sits and sings, While children smooth his patient wings".

The Upper Charles.

"Where yon shadowy woodlands hide thee
And thy waters disappear
Friends I love have dwelt beside thee
And have made thy margin dear".

"Little I ask; my wants are few;
I only wish a hut of stone
(A very plain brown stone will do.)
That I may call my own."

Holmes' House, Cambridge.

Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Yet, though the ebbing of Times mighty river,
Leave our young blossoms to die,
Let him roll smooth in his current forever,
Till the last pebble is dry.

Charlestown
on the Charles.

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